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Entered, January 27, 1906, at Richmond, Va., as second-class matter, under act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1906.

### To Christmas Shoppers.

Please buy your presents early. Early in the day and early in December.

That will be your biggest gift of the holidays—to the workers behind the counters and on the delivery wagons.

To keep young, every day read a poem, hear a choice piece of music, view a fine painting, and, if possible, do a good action.—Goethe.

### Extravagance and Its Consequences.

In a recent interview, Mr. John D. Rockefeller said that the American people were prodigal, and that our extravagance would have to be paid for by some one.

Mr. Rockefeller was asked what he thought of J. J. Hill's statement that the people of the United States were using up the resources of this country too fast.

"We are using up our resources at a tremendous rate," he said after some thought. "But that is not where our chief danger is now." Our peril lies in parting with the resources we have, and we are likely to find ourselves in need in the future for this reason. As to the resources, think of the untold natural wealth of the country which has thus far not yet been thought of, much less investigated. But the trouble is the people are too prodigal. They are taking advantage of a prosperity such as has never been existed in this country to be wasteful and extravagant. We are not saving up for the rainy day, for the time of need."

There is no doubt as to Mr. Rockefeller's premises. We are the most extravagant people on earth, and we are more extravagant now than ever. It is an extravagance born of prosperity. It is a case of "come easy, no easy," and Mr. Rockefeller's conclusion is logical. If the trouble is the people are too prodigal. They are taking advantage of a prosperity such as has never been existed in this country to be wasteful and extravagant. We are not saving up for the rainy day, for the time of need."

### The Railroad Slaughter.

Reports of the Interstate Commerce Commission show a formidable array of casualties among passengers and employees of American railroads. During the year ending with June 30 last, 4,200 persons were killed, and 30,200 were injured. Great and decisive battles, changing the course of the world's history, have been fought with far less damage to human life.

The cause designed for the majority of railroad accidents is that "the brakes did not work." The explanation may be regarded as convenient rather than convincing and satisfying. Safe travel obviously should not be a matter of the working of brakes. Passengers lives should not depend upon the ability to stop a flying train in the shortest possible number of yards. Roads should be operated so much a way that, except in the case of some emergency, like a washout, the efficiency of brakes would be a matter of very secondary importance.

Americans are in some ways the most tolerant people in the world and the most forgetful. Engrossed with things of their own immediate concern, they come to accept all sorts of unnecessary evils on the theory that they are unavoidable, or at any rate that everybody is used to them. But it would seem that a list of 60,000 people annually killed and wounded by the railroads was too much even for their forbearance. The experience of other countries shows that this slaughter is very largely preventable. It could be prevented here also, if Americans were only determined to have it so.

### Southern Prosperity.

The Atlantic Coast Line has placed orders for the earliest possible delivery in 1907 of 100 locomotives, 2,200 freight cars and 50 passenger cars, the appropriation for the equipment being practically \$3,600,000. Orders for twenty of the locomotives have already been placed for February delivery.

The directors also have authorized the purchase of 20,000 tons of 35-pound steel rails, contracts for which were placed immediately, deliveries to begin in January and extend to July.

This is 300 miles additional to 300 miles of new rail laid during the past year. There are dues on contracts placed early in 1906 between 250 and 300 freight cars and 20 locomotives, which are long in arrears, builders being unable to furnish the equipment.

No railroad in the country is more conservatively managed than the Atlantic Coast Line, and this announcement of its enlargement is the best possible proof of the South's progress.

### COMMENT OF VIRGINIA EDITORS.

*Unwritten Law* and *Written Law*. It unites us that entirely too much is being made of this question of "unwritten law" when some man or woman goes against his position and another succeeds. It ought to stand up in evidence for a lawyer to bring in as a defense. "I am bound by my written law," meaning no law at all, or even a law unto himself. No judge ought for a moment to give such an opinion as that given by the author of the *Virginia Standard*.

To make sure that he will not again be chosen as the victim for the sacrifice, Judges should be compelled to desist from accepting a retainer from the sugar Trust—Cleveland Leader.

It might be a good idea to give the Tribune another prize for ending the war between the country and Japan before it began.—China News.

With this issue our files are closed for the year and become a record of the life of the country for the year of 1906, giving a fair account of the movements and achievements of our people; it is by no means a complete chronicle, but with the aid of our people that of 1907 shall be a more complete one.—Midland Virginian.

The chief function of a local newspaper is to record the local news. What a rich fund of history is contained in the files of the weekly newspapers of Virginia!

The Lynchburg News cleverly and gaily remarks that when Bill Brown comes to Lynchburg to take charge of one of our apartment houses, there will be two Chestnutfields well met. We envy the News that pretty speech, and give it our following gracious note:

Much to my surprise, I learned last night the recipient of a boxwood which I, understand, was sent to him at the Orange Memorial Hospital. Believe me, I am not unappreciative of the courtesy and friendliness which brought me my boxwood, nor do I wish my record of it to appear as an inglorious note, but when I consider the names of the other gentlemen who appeared on the writing list, and the number just as readily as I can read the cut as myself, I have the desire to retain it just long enough to fill it and drink to each and every one of them a toast—not in a florid panegyric, but by bestowing good fellowship. The time can serve its purpose by increasing the respects of the rati, and should bring to the hospital. May it bring to it the best week and the best endeavor of every one in the Orange.

Dr. Hunton is as wise as he is good, erudite and modest. By giving the living up, he has retained it, and has shown that he is worthy of it. So long as it lasts, it will be known as the Hunton cap and token of his chivalry. We should all enjoy the Christmas season for more if only we could keep in mind that giving always brings far more of joy and satisfaction than grudging.

Superb Boston.

It is a fine thing to be enthusiastic and filled with a soaring enthusiasm. It is a fine thing to be definitely intellectual, deeply aesthetic and inflexibly bent upon the higher knowledge. And finest of all it is to be young and to live in Boston.

We are inspired to write this collection by a report of a lecture which recently appeared in the columns of our esteemed contemporary, The Boston Transcript. Here are some of its words of truth and soberness:

"Pragmatism in its all-roundness must consider pluralism. Monism must

### Borrowed Jingles.

MR. SANTA CLAUS.

Cab Santa Claus is coming, with a sleigh load full of toys,  
And paper hats and candy canes for little boys;  
The Eskimos hurrax at him, the walrus winks his eye,  
The polar bears draw up in line to welcome him gallop by;  
While off the shore ten-ton whale at anchor holds his tail all day;  
To form Mr. Santa Claus right over Baffin Bay.

So don't forget to go to bed when mother tells you to;  
And don't forget to do the things you know;  
Don't steal that bun or eat that pie that looks so dreadful good;

Behave yourself like little men and little ladies;  
It's terrible to be so nice, but don't forget, because  
It's bad to wait until it's late for Mr. Santa Claus.

The bells bring reindeer wear are jingling  
forth a time;  
The Arctic wolf yells out, "Good-by!" beneath  
The Northern moon.

As reindeer jogs tall and crunching  
Through the snow,  
Past curious seals and Northern lights his  
Hoof beats the ground.

And now and then he reaches round and round  
His head in thaws;

A little pack of presents for the baby Eskimos,  
So never pull your sister's hair or rudely say

I won't;  
Don't want to stay in bed when mother says you don't;  
Don't scratch away the baby's face, take care  
And always wash your face,

And always lay each boy at night exactly in  
His place.

An awful burden such things are, but do them

Bad children get no visit from old Mr. Santa.

James J. Montague, in New York American.

MERELY JOKING.

Wanted Him to Do It.  
"Before we were married you used to tell me you would die for me," "Yes, well, now you are refusing to eat the biscuits I make"—Helen Paul.

Beheld the Scenes.

"Did you ever succeed in awaying an angel to laughter or tears of mirth?" "No, I have not, but I have seen many angels do it." "What is the secret of the fact that all the world's a stage? I don't care to be reciting speeches. I want to be a king," says the King of California.

Well, well, I suppose this means that the Socialists have invaded California and have run amuck. But this is too big a subject for us to tackle during business hours. Let us have a quiet luncheon with the king and then he can be a king again.

It is the king of the world that I am.

Wanted to get away in regard to existing conditions. Mr. Porter said:

"At present the spectre of socialism is hovering over the British commercial world. Glad-edged securities, especially municipal bonds, are at a figure far below the value they should reach under trade conditions everywhere."

"To the tax-payer who is tempted to approve general public ownership without understanding the particular points which will lead to success, I say, 'No.'"

A Difficult Task.  
Mrs. Hensbeck: "I'll give you a piece of my mind." "Hempeck: "My dear, I don't think you before you get it out of your system."—Harper's Bazaar.

POINTS FROM PARAGRAPHERS.

M. ROOSEVELT has consented to address the National Council of Negroes at the next meeting. There will be nothing novel in his telling the editors how to run their papers. Everybody does that.—Washington Herald.

An Austrian physician is said to have cured Mrs. Roosevelt of her "trembling disease," which she had for years. Now she is able to dance again.

A lady attorney has just unearched thirty stars, says the Richmond Daily Dispatch. She must have fallen in a well-headmost.—Washington Herald.

Instead of penning safe-cracking experts, the Bankers' Association should pen on a few presidents who have a fondness for church funds.—Detroit Free Press.

What this country needs is to be rid of the restive creatures who persist in disagreeing with the administration.—Baltimore Sun.

To make sure that he will not again be chosen as the victim for the sacrifice, Judges should be compelled to desist from accepting a retainer from the sugar Trust—Cleveland Leader.

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"Pragmatism in its all-roundness must consider pluralism. Monism must

exist, and the world is not composed of one single entity, but of many entities.

These days nobody's talking about anything, and everybody's doing it.

With 200 Feet Yet to Tumble, Man Grabs a Rope.

PEN ARGYLL, December 21.—John Masters of East Anglia, superintendent of the United States slate quarry at this place, had a narrow escape from being killed to-day.

While walking near the quarry hole he slipped on the ice and fell over the edge. There he caught hold of a wire rope and hung suspended in the air 200 feet above the bottom of the quarry, until workmen came to his assistance.

In England the electrical industry has

established unity, otherwise it is a failure. Pluralism may easily be satisfied with a small number. Pragmatism abhors absolute monism, and also absolute pluralism. Since monism is devoted to one, then pragmatism must be classed with pluralism."

No man breathes with soul so dead that he can read even this brief extract and not be forever the nobler man for it. One sentence should be enough to give his mind a thorough massage, to titillate his spirit, to banish despair and bid new hope to enthroned itself in however dejected a bosom. Once having got the glorious fact of the absolute abjuration of monism by pragmatism firmly clamped into his cerebellum, a man has nothing more to fear from the slings and arrows of the most outrageous fortune. He is supreme, dominant, buckled within and without, a god knowing good and evil.

The human race reaches its triumphant plenitude at a Boston lecture. It is a coronation merely to breathe the air of that metropolis. But we wonder a little sometimes when they find time to sleep there.

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